

ORWIGSBURG HAPPENINGS

From Where It All Began

... Is Happening Again

No. 82 – Issued Quarterly

BOROUGH OF ORWIGSBURG, PA

February 2015

Borough Manager Robert Williams Takes Charge

New Faces, Opportunities and Challenges in 2015

It's a new year in the borough, and along with it some new faces, new challenges, and new opportunities for growth and advancement.

First, we welcome our new borough manager, Bob Williams. Bob brings us years of experience in both private business and the military. At a time when the borough is involved in several different projects, it was important that Bob hit the ground running and, by all accounts, he certainly has done just that. He sees our town "as a real gem in this area," and it's his goal along with council to ensure that we build upon our community's strengths.

As the year begins, the borough faces a few challenges. As they do for everyone else, expenses continue to rise in the face of flat revenues. A rough 2014 winter season left us well over budget in utility and streets maintenance. We were able to offset some of this with reserve funds, but that's not something we should have to do too often. We held the line on taxes again for 2015, but with aging infrastructure and equipment, we need to see an uptick in revenues in order to keep our head above water. We are hopeful the economy will continue to slowly improve to allow the borough to keep pace with its rising expenses.

Inflow and infiltration (I&I) of the sanitary sewer system is another challenge we continue to face. The South Liberty Street sewer line project is being tackled, in part, to help with this issue. We're also investigating problem areas further upstream in the system and determining options. With the type of system that exists, the I&I problem will be a continual struggle. The good news is the series of steps taken thus far, such as the inspections and I&I corrections, have significantly reduced flow to the plant during storm events.

The opportunities we have reside in several projects that are either nearing completion, or are planned for this year or the next.

The Veterans Community Memorial Hall renovation is continuing to move along. Local groups have it booked every weekend and most nights throughout the week for the foreseeable future. The old Fessler building in town



ROBERT A. WILLIAMS
ORWIGSBURG BOROUGH MANAGER

will most likely undergo construction starting in the spring and will no longer be just a vacant structure. There are also a few private housing developments in and around the borough hoping to break ground in the near future. Developments like these are what will provide growth and attract new residents and businesses expanding the tax base so the town is able to thrive without increasing costs on the residents.

Finally, thanks to Phil Smith and Mike Lonergan for their years of service to the borough. Phil retired this past month and Mike moved on to a different career. Best wishes to them in their future endeavors.

– Buddy Touchinsky, Council President

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**FISHING
RODEO**

May 2 & 3

at Fisher's Dam



Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

ORWIGSBURG BOROUGH

209 N. Warren Street • P.O. Box 128
Orwigsburg, PA 17961 • Ph: 570-366-3103
www.orwigsburg.net

OFFICIALS

Mayor..... Barry Berger
Council President..... Buddy Touchinsky
Council Vice President..... Susan Murphy
Borough Manager..... Robert A. Williams
Secretary..... Sherry Edwards
Treasurer..... Colleen Hoptak
Tax Receiver..... Colleen Hoptak
Solicitor..... Frank Tamulonis
Borough Engineers..... ARRO Consulting, Inc.
Entech Engineering, Inc.
Hanover Engineering Assoc., Inc.
Fire Chief..... Dave Hardinger

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Paul Bedway, Jr. • Darle Cresswell
Edward Mady • David Rubright
Angela Hoptak-Solga

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Emergency..... Dial 9-1-1
Non-emergency..... 570-366-3101
Stanley Brozana, Chief
Brandon Bayer • John Koury • Robert Bechtel

STREET DEPARTMENT

Jake Brensinger • David Teter • Brandon Wagner

WATER AND WASTEWATER

Patrick Mulqueen • David Teter • Jake Brensinger

BOROUGH OFFICE

Sherry Edwards • Kathi Mengle

Orwigsburg Borough Council meets the First and Second Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, second floor of the Orwigsburg Municipal Building, 209 North Warren Street.

Both meetings are open to the public. A Work Session for discussions and setting of an agenda takes place on the First Wednesday each month. The Business Meeting is then held on the Second Wednesday.

OFFICIAL HOLIDAY HOURS

Orwigsburg Borough offices will be closed on the following days in 2015 in observance of the stated holidays – Good Friday, April 3; Memorial Day, May 25; Independence Day, July 3; Labor Day, September 7; Thanksgiving, Nov. 26 and 27; Christmas eve and day, Dec. 24 and 25.

Spring & summer events

The Orwigsburg Business and Professional Association is pleased to sponsor many community events. It's popular Square Time summer monthly series will begin with the June Bug Jamboree on Thursday, June 18. Family Fun Fest is slated for Thursday, Aug. 6. Both events will be held rain or shine – "on the square" if the weather cooperates; moved to the Veterans Community Memorial Hall if it doesn't.

Team Orwigsburg

Team Orwigsburg is a local faith-based mission team, formed 10 years ago comprised of members from Orwigsburg to Palmyra to Cape Cod, Mass.!



The team does local repair and mission work, but doesn't "advertise" its work by exposing names or locations. Once each year the team travels to a hurricane-torn area to help repair homes.

The mission statement of "healing hearts and homes" is what the team is proud to do. This year's trek will be in April to Crisfield, Maryland where Hurricane Sandy devastated families three years ago. This will be the third trip to the area.

New faces are always welcome and an open invitation is extended to be part of the team's important work. Fundraisers are held throughout the year to make the mission work possible. Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at Salem United Methodist Church on S. Liberty Street. For additional information, contact Susan McCartney at 570-943-2103.

Fishing Rodeo

The 25th annual Orwigsburg Children's Fishing Rodeo will be held Saturday and Sunday, May 2-3 this year for children 15 and under. Fisher's Dam will be stocked with over 500 fish and there will be prizes for tagged fish. Each child participating will receive a hot dog and drink. The existence of this rodeo relies on donations from community members and local businesses.



– Continued on page 4

SPRING OPENING – Sunday, April 5



3 Berry Rd.
Schuylkill Haven

HOURS:
Sat. & Sun. 12-5 p.m.
Mon. 3-8 p.m.



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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

– Continued from Page 2

Anyone interested in more information can contact the OCFR committee at (570) 294-8978.

Easter egg hunt

The Easter Bunny will make a special, early visit to Orwigsburg on Saturday, March 28 for the annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Orwigsburg Lions Club. The event will be held at Albright's Woods on Grove Street just east of the Little League field and will begin at 12 noon.

All children from the Orwigsburg community through the age of 10 are invited to hunt for eggs, all filled with yummy candy treats. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Special "prize" eggs will be part of the selection for each age group. This is a B.Y.O.B. event ... Bring Your Own Basket! This is a free event and will be held rain or shine.

Arrive early so the children can find their appropriate age group areas among five different: ages 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, and 9-10. The egg hunt will begin promptly at noon with the blast of the Orwigsburg Fire Department's fire engine horn.



Following the hunt, there will be an opportunity to take your child's picture with the Easter Bunny, so please bring your own camera.

Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry

Thank you to all who contributed to the Thanksgiving and Christmas food supply distributed to very needy persons and families in Orwigsburg and surrounding communities.

The pantry, operating from the rear of St. John's United Church of Christ, E. Market Street, will continue to serve our neighbors in need as long as this generosity continues. The pantry is usually open the third Saturday of every month; but, this March distribution will be the fourth Saturday, March 28 to be closer to the Easter holiday.

All volunteers and pantry families must observe parking regulations in the area; and to not park on neighbors' lawns or in front of garages.



Winter driving reminder

While winter scenes are appealing, winter storms present dangers that cannot be ignored, especially on our roads. For safety's sake:

– Continued on page 6



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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

– Continued from Page 4

- If you must drive in bad weather, allow extra time to reach your destination.
- If behind a snowplow, do not pass it unless a passing lane is available.
- If a snowplow is coming toward you, provide as much room as possible for it to get by. If able, dim your lights so the operator can see the street in front of the plow.
- Remember, if driving conditions are dangerous for your vehicle, they are also dangerous for the snowplow. Be patient and allow plow operators to complete their work.



Notice will be posted on the borough website, borough Facebook page and provided to the Republican Herald newspaper and radio stations WPPA-AM and WAVT-FM.

Households with a current telephone number in our database will receive a pre-recorded message call with information concerning the snow emergency. You may also receive notifications via email and text message. If you have not already done so, add your contact information via the Swiftreach link on the home page of the borough website, www.orwigsburg.net. A form is also included in this newsletter.

Vehicles parked on a designated Snow Emergency Route in violation will be ticketed and could be towed. The vehicle owner is responsible for all towing costs.



Snow emergencies

We may be trying hard to forget the experience of last winter, but it is that time of year again. Here are a few reminders when the snow flies.

A "Snow Emergency" may be called by the mayor. Parking will be restricted on streets designated as "Snow Emergency Routes." Parking will NOT be permitted on the even side of a snow emergency route on even dates and the odd side of the street on odd dates. Note there will be no parking allowed on either side of the Square during a snow emergency.

In need of health aids?

Are you or a loved one in need of any of these items to aid in recovery from illness or surgery?

- Wheelchair
- Walker – stationary & folding
- Hospital bed – manual & electric
- Cane – single and multi-legged
- Crutches
- Shower seat

– Continued on page 8



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For your families' peace of mind...

Our crematory is used for the families that we serve. Our facilities are always open for your inspection.



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Our technicians are experienced and our crematory follows strict guidelines.

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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

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- Bedside commode/bedpan
- Over-toilet seat with handrails
- Temporary tub hand rail
- Recliner chair with auto-lift seat



The Orwigsburg Lions' "Health Equipment Loan Program" provides these items to local residents at no charge as a community service. To arrange such a loan, call Larry Dagna at 570-617-6149 or Walter Schimpf as a secondary contact at 570-366-0784 or 570-449-0659 and leave a message.

Dumpster? You need a permit

Any resident who rents a dumpster and places it on the street is required to fill out a dumpster permit prior to dumpster delivery. Permits are available at the borough office at a cost of \$5. The permit is good for three weeks; another permit is required for additional time. Four (4) reflectors are required on each side of the dumpster, and dumpster wheels must be placed on 3/4" thick pieces of wood so as not to damage the road surface.

Refuse collection & recycling

The Borough contracts with Kreitzer Sanitation for the weekly collection of refuse. Curbside collection is every Tuesday for properties on Market Street and north and every Friday for properties south of Market Street.

Convenient single-stream curbside recycling collection is provided every two weeks on the designated trash pickup day. Recyclable items must be



separated from other household trash and placed in a container clearly marked for recycling. Recycling days are Tuesday and Fridays – February 24 & 27; March 10 & 13; March 24 & 27; April 7 & 10; April 21 & 24; May 5 & 8; and May 19 & 22.

Large item disposal

One large item may be placed at the curb beside your regular trash once per month.

Regular trash consists of up to six bags of garbage and up to ten bags of leaves. Residents should place trash at the curb any time after 6 p.m. on evenings prior to collection. Because pickup times vary, do not wait until the morning of collection to place garbage.

Month	Tues.	Fri.
Feb.	10	13
March	10	13
April	14	17
May	12	15

LARGE ITEM PICKUP DATES

Construction materials (shingles, drywall, cabinets, insulation, etc.) may not be placed at the curb

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HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday - Friday

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.*

Saturday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

*Evenings By Appointment
(Closed Sunday)



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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

– Continued from Page 8

with your regular trash. You must get a dumpster which can be leased from the borough's trash collector, Kreitzer Sanitation, at 570-366-6360.

Recycling electronics

The Covered Device Recycling Act of 2010 prohibits the disposal of desktop computers, laptop computers, computer monitors, computer peripherals and televisions. If these items are placed on the curb for pickup, Kreitzer Sanitation will not take them.



Electronics recycling events are held periodically by the Schuylkill County Office of Solid Waste. When dates and locations are known, this information will be posted to the borough website and Facebook page.

Help us to help you

It shall be the responsibility of property owners in the Borough to number their buildings. The number needs to be placed over/under each front door, or front transom bar or glass or front show window, over or on either side of the entrance or upon a permanent standard, base or support between building and street. The number is to be of paint, metal, enam-



el, plastic, or other weather resistant material and at least three inches in height, the color of the numbers to be in contrast to the immediate background, and shall be so placed as to be in full view and legible from the street. No numbers shall be covered with any sign, drapery, or other obstruction and all old numbers shall be removed when a new number is assigned.

Proper disposal of Old Glory

Used flags may be brought to the borough office for proper disposal. Place flags inside the designated mailbox-like container in front of the borough building.



Request for cones

Cones are available for use from the Borough. A cone request form must be filled out and is available from the borough office. Forty-eight hours notice must be given to allow time to get the cones delivered to their location and signs to be made to be placed on the cones.

Albright's Woods

Now is the time to plan that 2015 outdoor event. The pavilion at Albright's Woods is available for rent for your graduation party, family reunion or

– Continued on page 12

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25th Anniversary Concerts

Jerusalem Lutheran Church 252 Dock St., Sch. Haven

Sunday, March 1, 2015 – 3pm:

Mozart French Horn Concerto #1 in D major, K. 412 – Dvorak Sextet in A major, Op. 48
– Tchaikovsky String Sextet "Souvenir de Florence" – Guest artists: Evelyn Estava, violin;
Michael Avagliano, viola; Deborah Davis, cello; Anthony Cecere, French Horn

Sunday, April 19, 2015 – 3 pm:

Boyce Symphony #1 – Sibelius Suite for Violin and Strings, Op. 117 – Rossini String
Sonata #2 in A major – Vivaldi L'incoronazione di Dario – Pierne Serenade Op. 7
Elgar Introduction and Allegro – GCE Large Ensemble and Madison String Quartet

GABRIEL YOUTH ORCHESTRA

SPRING CONCERT – Sunday, April 26 at 3 p.m.

D.H.H. Lengel Auditorium, Pottsville Area Middle School



Gabriel Chamber Ensemble

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www.gabrielensemble.org Facebook Gabriel Chamber Ensemble
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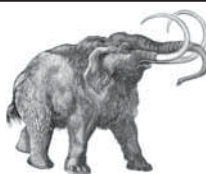
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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

– Continued from Page 10

other event. Albright's Woods is located on Grove Street in Orwigsburg. The park has a pavilion with picnic tables and a kitchen available for use. Rental fee for the kitchen is \$75, \$25 of which is a returnable security deposit. If the kitchen is not needed, a \$25 fee is charged. For further details or to make a reservation to use the park, call the borough office at 570-366-3103.



Owner/tenant forms

Reminder to all landlords: Orwigsburg Borough Ordinance #396 requires that every owner/lessor of any apartment, house or other type of rental building shall register with the Borough every year. If any tenant moves from the dwelling during the year, the owner shall notify the Borough within thirty (30) days of said changes. Forms are available at the borough office or from the borough website: www.orwigsburg.net

In addition, landlords living in excess of 20 miles from the Borough must designate a local manager for the property. This individual must live within 10 miles of the borough.

Utility bills

As this newsletter is being published, the due date for quarterly utility bills is fast approaching. It is

the responsibility of all property owners to pay their bills in full by the due date printed on the invoice.

The Borough relies on these payments in order to meet the debt service and operating costs for the water, wastewater and sanitation services. If a bill is not paid after a short grace period, collection efforts will be initiated. If efforts to collect payments are unsuccessful, additional steps could include interruption of service and/or a lien placed on your property. Property owners are responsible for all costs incurred to collect past due obligations.

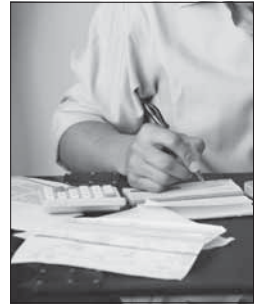
To avoid these actions and additional costs, property owners must make payment arrangements with the Borough. Have accounts up to date or a payment arrangement in place by then to avoid loss of service.

Curb your animal

Borough Ordinance 299 prohibits pet owners from allowing their pets to defecate on another property without removing the feces from that property. Those violating this ordinance can be fined up to \$600.

Many residents take advantage of the parks and walking trail and are discouraged by the lack of consideration shown by some pet owners.

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Pastor: Rev. Lee A Diefenderfer

OFFICE HOURS:

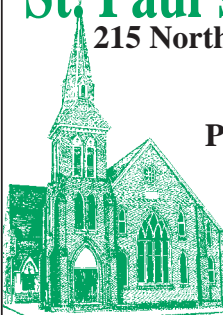
Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

New Worship Times

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.



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CONCERT SERIES - UPCOMING CONCERTS

NOTE: February Concert – CANCELLED

Sun., March 8 – 4 p.m., Brothers in Harmony

Sun., April 19 – 4 p.m., The Minor Notes

Children's Chorus of Sch. County

Sun., May 24 – 7 p.m., Concert of Patriotic

Music & Readings prior to Memorial Day

LENTEN SERVICES

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18 – 7 p.m., Imposition of Ashes, Sacrament of Holy Communion, Initiation of the Season of Lent. Additional workshop the same day at Noon, there will be 2 services offered

Midweeks in Lent: Wednesdays Noon to 12:30 p.m. and 7-7:30 p.m. in the nave



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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

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Meter reading

Many water meters are read from a remote reading register attached to the building and connected to the meter. Borough Ordinance 310 requires these units be accessible to the Borough. Landscaping around your remote reading register needs to be maintained so as to not restrict free access.

Getting the word out

We use the Borough website www.orwigsburg.net as a valuable tool to keep residents and property owners informed about the happenings in the Borough. Our staff will keep the home page current with news on upcoming events and information on past events in the Borough.

The website lists borough meeting schedules. Minutes from these meetings are posted after they have been reviewed and approved by the appropriate body. The subdivision and zoning codes are also available for all to view. Numerous forms are also available, including applications for Albright's Woods usage. Trash day pickup changes will also be posted. Links to other websites, such as the Lions Club, library, churches and fire company are on the website.

The website also includes a link allowing residents to enter their contact information into the borough's Swiftreach 911 emergency notification system. This site allows the Borough to notify residents via telephone, text message and e-mail of boil water adviso-

Swiftreach 911 Data Update Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____ Cell: _____

Cell Phone Carrier (required to receive Text Message): _____

Email Address: _____

RETURN TO: Orwigsburg Borough
PO Box 128
Orwigsburg, PA 17961

ries, weather emergencies or any other emergencies in a prompt manner.

If you prefer, you may complete the adjoining Data Update Form and return it to Borough Hall. The office will update your information for you.

The Borough also takes advantage of Social Media to provide information. "Like" the Borough on its Facebook page and stay up-to-date with what is happening in your community. Emergency information can also be received via Twitter by following @OrwigsburgMgr.



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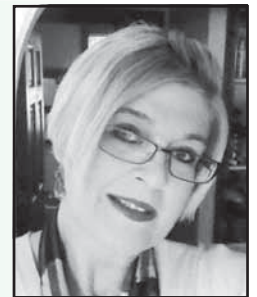
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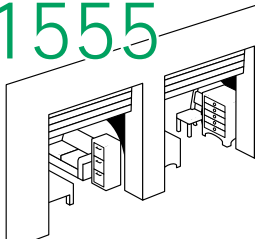


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Ash Wednesday – Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday – Communion April 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday – Tenebrae April 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Easter Holy Communion – April 5 at 10:30 a.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous – Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

See our article for more details!



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Message from the Orwigsburg Mayor

I have a bad habit of doing things pretty much right before I absolutely need to have things done. Call it what you will – dawdling around, bad planning, procrastination, the attractive nuisance of doing something else instead. I'm sure there is now an identified syndrome to excuse this deficiency, but it has worked for me for close to sixty years. I don't see a strong case for corrective action on the horizon at this stage of the game.

This habit brought me to the act of cleaning up the remains of a minor snow storm before what was being proclaimed as the next "blizzard of the century," with a lot of century to go! The borough looks ready to go whether or not the prediction is correct.

I heard of a company that does custom extended forecasts for major businesses to help them decide what types and quantities of products to make available for upcoming seasons. The company has around 500 customers which each pay \$150,000 per year for these forecasts, with our general area expected to be cold and winter-like in February. Seems to me that a \$3 almanac could be that accurate. Winter-like in February, go figure!

Without regard to forecast accuracy, any winter precipitation usually presents a challenge. I'm encouraged by the cooperation and assistance I've noticed between neighbors, as we all seek to stick the snow where the sun does shine, promoting its quickest departure. Please give a hand to those who could use



CITIZENSHIP AWARD – Deborah and Alan Shepler, shown left, were recognized by the Borough at the end of 2014 for their many years of service to the Orwigsburg Ambulance, Friendship Fire Company, and Orwigsburg Fire Police. Mayor Barry Berger presented the award.

a little help dealing with seasonal tasks.

Additionally, borough crew members are doing their best to provide safe road conditions throughout Orwigsburg. That said, everyone should bear in mind

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Message from the Orwigsburg Mayor

that winter weather presents issues that all drivers should consider as they travel about town ... folks and kids out enjoying the fresh air, limited traction for starts and stops, and vision obstructions from snow in piles and on windshields. Please clear off your vehicle completely and drive with caution, for everyone's well being.

With sadness, we note the passing of former Mayor Harry H. Moore. He served as mayor from 1994 to 2000 but he served Orwigsburg in countless ways throughout his life. Harry's wife and family were most cherished. He was a fixture in his church and his fraternal orders. He served his country and did his best to let no one forget those men and women that answered the call to duty, especially those whose sacrifice was ultimate.

The new year brought on the retirement of Phil Smith as foreman of the borough maintenance staff. Phil has been a stalwart asset to Orwigsburg since the day he signed on over 21 years ago. Always a craftsman, Phil did whatever needed to be done in the most proper fashion possible. We wish him a long and happy retirement because it is certainly well deserved.

The start of 2015 brought a new face to the borough manager's office. Robert A. Williams comes to Orwigsburg after more than twenty years of service with the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. Bob has a diverse background academically, as a business owner, and as a citizen/soldier. He has proclaimed



SERVICE AWARD – Al Mickalonis, left, was honored by the Borough at the end of 2014 for his 22 years serving as a member of the Planning & Zoning Commission. Mayor Barry Berger presented the award.

himself to be “a hands-on kind of guy” and nothing I’ve observed contradicts that statement. I believe Bob’s perspective will be refreshing while his skills improve our services to Orwigsburg’s residents.

May all citizens of Orwigsburg enjoy a happy and prosperous New Year!

– Barry J. Berger, Mayor

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Veterans Community Memorial Hall

Work continues on the modernized and greatly improved Veterans Community Memorial Hall. This facility's utilization is increasing with each construction benchmark completion. When fully complete it will serve the needs of all facets of Orwigsburg and its surrounds.

Exterior improvements of the structure are now complete. Through the funding of two separate grants, and with the support of the Borough and Development Task Force dollars, two separate contracts transformed the energy efficiency and exterior appearance of Community Memorial Hall.

Work to be tackled next will include awarding a lighting/electrical contract and finishing the interior improvements for the new entryway. The commercial kitchen upgrade is another standalone project we hope to address over the next year or more; however, we need to raise about \$100,000 for that specific project.

The Task Force is in the process of applying for and securing funding for the outdoor basketball court, drainage and storm water management improve-

ments, concrete curbs, sidewalks, play equipment and the overall site development to create an organized and methodical layout for access and parking.

The concluding project will be the construction of the Veterans Display Area. Final details are still in the works, but the mission to honor and remember our community's veterans is still at the heart of all these efforts. We thank all who have served!

The Development Task Force needs to continue to raise funds to complete these projects. New

"300 Club" members willing to commit a \$1,000 contribution over the next three years – \$333 annually, or less than \$1 per day or a one time donation of \$1,000 – are needed.

Please review the donation levels for "Community Memorial Hall" on the brochure that can be found at www.orwigsburgmemorial.org and stay up-to-date on the building's progress by following us on Facebook.

If you are thinking you would like to do a little more, various options are available to you. Specific "naming rights" levels for large donations are yet to be announced.

The Homerun Derby associated with Derby Days this past year will now be held on Memorial Day. This event will further increase the fun, activities and honor of this day at our community facilities.

The Orwigsburg Veteran's Memorial project continues to move forward; but, we need your support to complete this project – a facility to better serve our community and honor our veterans.

The building is being heavily utilized by many groups and organizations already. We want to continue to grow the opportunity for this building and to further flourish the Memorial Hall as a cornerstone of our community.

– Greg Stewart, President
Veterans' Memorial Development Task Force



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Newsletter Particulars

"Orwigsburg Happenings" is a quarterly newsletter of the Borough of Orwigsburg distributed to 1,400 households within the borough.

The newsletter is designed and printed by
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Ph: 570-385-3120 • Fax: 570-385-0725

E-mail: info@southschuylkill.net

www.SouthSchuylkill.net

Publication dates for the next three issues are
May 9, August 15 and November 6, 2015

News Submittals

Nonprofit and community organizations within the Borough are invited to submit news items for consideration. Written submittals must be received by Borough Manager Michael Lonergan in the borough offices, three weeks prior to the publication date.

Advertising

Businesses wishing to reach every household in the Borough of Orwigsburg are invited to advertise in future issues. Contact South Schuylkill Printing & Publishing for more information. Call Madelyn @ 570-366-2791. All advertisements must be received at least three weeks prior to the publication dates. Ad content is subject to approval and acceptance by the Borough of Orwigsburg.



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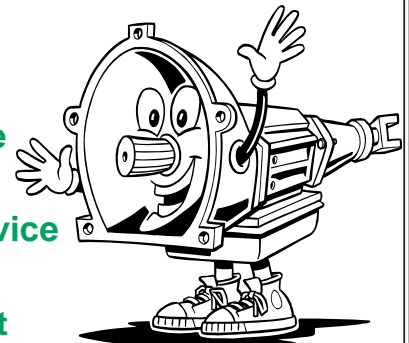
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From the Desk of the Fire Chief

Heating Safety

The devices we use to heat our homes, such as fireplaces, woodstoves, and space heaters are the single largest source of residential fires each year. More than half of these fires occur during the cold weather months of December, January and February. A few simple tips and precautions can prevent most of these heating fires.

Fireplaces and Woodstoves

- Have your fireplace or woodstove and chimney inspected each year to ensure no cracks exist in the flue liner and the chimney is free of creosote buildup.
- Use only dry, seasoned hardwoods in the fireplace or woodstove. Do not burn trash such as wrapping paper.
- Never use flammable liquids such as gasoline or kerosene to start the fire.



Space Heaters

- Operate kerosene heaters only in well-ventilated areas to prevent carbon monoxide buildup.
- Do not attempt to use any fuel other than kerosene in the heater. Use of other flammable liquids can lead to an explosion and fire.
- Allow the heater to cool and take it outside

before attempting to refill it.

- If you are using an electric space heater, make sure it has a safety certification label from an independent testing organization, such as the UL mark from Underwriters Laboratories.
- Check the power cord for cracks, fraying, loose connections and broken plugs. Have the cord repaired or replace the heater if you find any damage.
- Plug electric space heaters directly into the wall outlet and avoid using extension cords.

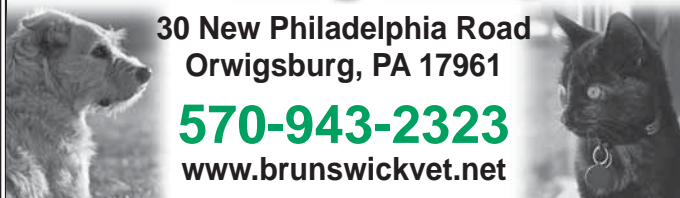
General Precautions

- Keep children, pets, and flammable items at least three feet from any heat source.
- Never leave space heaters, woodstoves, or fireplaces unattended.
- Make sure you have at least one properly functioning smoke detector on each level of your home and a carbon monoxide detector in the room where any heating device that burns wood, coal or kerosene is located.

As you are digging out from that snowstorm, take a few minutes to dig out the neighborhood fire hydrant. This will save valuable time in the event of a fire. Also, check on your elderly neighbors to see if they need any extra help.

– Dave Hardinger, Fire Chief

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State Senator David G. Argall

New Session of Congress Raises Tough Issues

In 2015, Pennsylvania faces a number of significant challenges, including a possible budget deficit in excess of \$2 billion, an economy that is slowly recovering from the depths of recession, and a property tax system that is literally taxing people out of their homes.



**SENATOR
DAVID ARGALL**

As the first Schuylkill Countian to serve in the Senate's leadership since the 1860s, putting an end to the school district property tax once and for all remains my highest priority, just as requested by many of my constituents in Orwigsburg and beyond.

In addition, I have been appointed to serve as vice chairman of the Senate Urban Affairs and Housing Committee. This committee made significant progress helping municipalities eliminate blighted properties.

I also hope to lead action to improve our communities by serving on five other Senate committees, including:

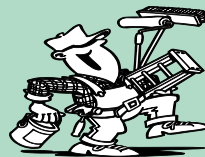
- Appropriations Committee tasked with reviewing the annual state budget and determining the

fiscal impact of every bill prior to final passage in the Senate;

- Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee that oversees important job-assistance programs;
- Aging and Youth Committee that had a key role in strengthening child protection laws across the state last year;
- Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee handles important issues for farmers of Schuylkill; and,
- Intergovernmental Operations Committee seeking efficiencies among various levels of government.

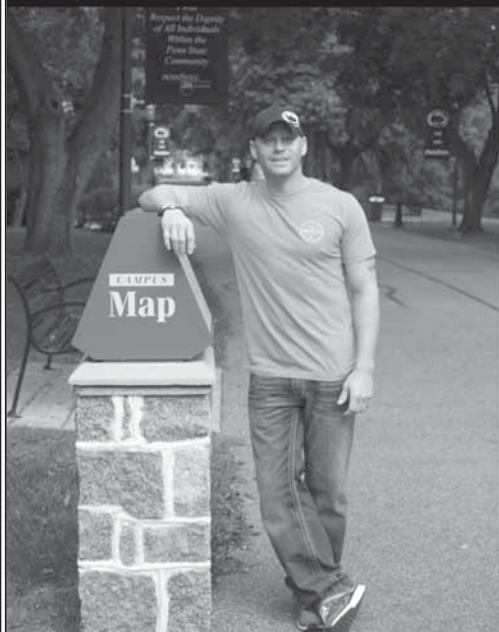
To contact me, call toll-free 1-877-327-4255 or email at dargall@pasen.gov. My website is www.SenatorArgall.com and I am also available on Facebook (www.facebook.com/SenatorArgall) and Twitter (@SenatorArgall).

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April 25: Open House

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Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library

The Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library thanks former Borough Manager Michael Lonergan for all his years of service to the Borough and to the library. At the same time, it welcomes Robert Williams to Orwigsburg and to the manager's post. He made his presence known early, having already visited the library and met the staff.

Well into the New Year, the Orwigsburg Library is filling the calendar days with activities and events for the town and surrounding community residents to enjoy.

A few of the big events coming up include the 7th annual "Casino Night" fundraiser to be held Sat., March 7 at the Schuylkill Country Club. This year's theme will be "Viva Las Vegas" – think Elvis and showgirls. Fun! Fun! Fun! A "Jane Austen Tea Party" is planned for Sunday, April 19 at the library. Tea, light refreshments, programs, entertainment and so much more. Limited seating is available for this interesting event.

The Summer Reading Program is already in the works. The theme this year is "Heroes" and will run from June 9 through August 11. Don't worry, the Wednesday Wacky and Weird Science programs will be back this summer!

The library will again have the well-received Calendar Raffle to support the Summer Reading Program. The month of April has 30 chances to win for a donation of just \$5.



So much is happening at the Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library. Stop in and see what it's all about! We're at 214 E. Independence St. or call 570-366-1638. You can access our website through the Borough at www.orwigsburg.net or follow us on Facebook at OrwigsburgAreaFreePublicLibrary. There are programs and services for patrons of all ages.

A Tuesday morning story hour with Robin Price features singing, movement, story and a craft for preschool youngsters starts at 10:30 a.m. Also every Tuesday, those who enjoy knitting welcome newcomers to gather, talk, and knit beginning at 6 p.m.

The second Wednesday of each month is Lego Club at 5:30 p.m. Builders of all ages are welcome to be part of the fun. Mahjongg is played on the first, third, and fifth Wednesday each month beginning at 6 p.m. Book Club meets once per month on a Monday evening at 6 p.m.



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Feb 28 – Doo Wop Cavalcade w/Lunch at Bird-In-Hand.....	\$ 86
Mar 1 – Philadelphia Flower Show (departs 7:00 a.m.).....	\$ 59**
Mar 3 – Philadelphia Flower Show + Lunch On Moshulu (departs 9:15 a.m.).....	\$103**
Mar 4 – Philadelphia Flower Show (North Pickups) (departs 7:00 a.m.).....	\$ 62**
Mar 5 – Philadelphia Flower Show (departs 8:00 a.m.).....	\$ 59**
Mar 7 – Philadelphia Flower Show (departs 6:30 a.m.).....	\$ 59**
Mar 12 – Sands Casino \$35 FSP.....	\$ 24
Mar 17 – St. Patrick's Day Parade or New York City Free Day.....	\$ 39
Mar 19 – "Squabbles" @ Rainbow Dinner Theatre.....	\$ 74
Mar 21 – Oak Ridge Boys @ American Music Theatre.....	\$ 68
Mar 24 – Mt. Airy Casino Show: The Belmonts (\$20 FSP, Lunch Buffet).....	\$ 63
Mar 28 – Body Worlds: Animals Inside Out (Franklin Institute).....	\$ 59**
Mar 28 – Washington DC Free Day.....	\$ 43
Apr 3 – "Moses" w/Lunch at Bird-In-Hand.....	\$ 95**
Apr 6 – Phillies vs Red Sox (Game Time 3:05 p.m.).....	\$ 71
Apr 9 – Sands Casino \$35 FSP.....	\$ 24
Apr 11 – American Girl Place (Includes Lunch).....	\$ 76
Apr 11 – New York International Auto Show.....	\$ 51
Apr 11 – "Red Hot & Blue" - Direct from Branson, MO (Tri-Valley HS).....	\$ 44
Apr 15 – "Abies Irish Rose" @ Hunterdon Hills Playhouse.....	\$ 78
Apr 18 – Baltimore National Aquarium.....	\$ 66**
Apr 18 – Body Worlds: Pulse.....	\$ 60**
Apr 18 – "Stinky Kids" (Child's Lunch Buffet).....	\$ 40

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Stay Safe with the Orwigsburg Police Dept.

Winter coats and car seats don't mix! As winter continues, parents find themselves bundling children to prepare them for the elements. But even with good intentions, a bulky coat and a car seat is a dangerous combination.

We all want to keep our children warm while traveling in the car, but there are ways to safely transport children while ensuring they are warm. As a general rule, winter coats should

not be worn beneath the harness of a car seat causing it to be too loose to be effective should there be a crash. Here's a simple way to check ...

- Put the coat on your child, sit them in the seat and fasten the harness. Tighten the harness until you can no longer pinch any of the harness webbing with your thumb and forefinger.
- Without loosening the harness, remove your child from the seat.
- Take the coat off and put your child back in the seat and buckle the harness. If you can now

pinch the webbing, then the coat is too bulky to be worn under the harness.

- Instead, take the coat off and buckle your child correctly. Turn the coat around and put it on backwards with the child's arms through the arm holes over top of the harness.
- Further, take along a blanket to lay over your child.

It's very important that the harness is tight enough that you can't pinch the webbing. Extra slack in the harness can be dangerous and may allow the child to eject from the seat during a crash.

- Brandon Bayer, Patrolman



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A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

Kimmels Church

Do you ever find that you have so many things on your plate that it causes life to be a little overwhelming? Do you seem to run from one thing to the next only to eventually ask the question, "Why am I doing all of this?" If we're not careful, we can quickly lose sight of our purpose for doing what we do.

At Kimmels Church, our main purpose is to reveal the one and only true God to people so they can learn of His love for them and connect with Him in a personal way! We offer real life opportunities for you to connect with



a loving God and His people through events and programs that can change your life.

One area many of us could use a change is that of finances and debt. Our current sermon series "Financial Freedom" includes everything you need to know to move toward financial peace. The best way to honor God with our finances is to live debt free with the understanding we are just stewards of what is already His. Join us at 10 a.m. on Sundays for great teaching and check out our website to "catch up" on what you missed so far.

Easter always brings with it a time of excitement for the whole family. All are invited to a community-wide Easter egg hunt at 3 p.m. on Palm Sunday, March 29 at Kimmels. Hear the greatest message that "Jesus Is Alive" told in a fun program and enjoy crafts, bounce house, and egg hunt with lots of candy. On Good Friday, April 3 church families recreate the carrying of a large cross symbolizing Christ's selfless love. Join us for an Easter sunrise worship service at 6:30 a.m. on April 5 at our chapel on the hill to remember that first Easter morning at the empty tomb. Join us for the 10 a.m. worship service for the start of a 6-week series entitled "I Am" which explores the statements of Jesus from the gospel of John.

Again this year, Kimmels Church will connect with four others in the area for World Vision's 30-Hour Famine. More than 50 teens will spend the May 1-2 weekend raising awareness and funds to fight world hunger. We look forward to the community involvement.

Zion's Red Church

Our lives tend to be messy and, if we are honest, our faith is often messy too. So, come and get messy with us! Messy Church days will be featured March 15, April 12, and May 15 beginning at 4 p.m. Experience something new! All are invited ... it's for the young and the young-at-heart, featuring family-style creative worship beginning with joyful praise, dramatic



179 Pine Creek Drive
Orwigsburg, PA
Phone: 570.943.2759
www.kimmelschurch.org

Join Us!

Easter Egg Hunt
Palm Sunday, March 29 @ 3:00 pm

Good Friday Service
April 3 @ 6:30 pm

Easter Worship Services - April 5th
Sunrise Service @ 6:30 am
Morning Worship Service @ 10:00 am

Join us on Sunday mornings for our worship service at 10 am
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Orwigsburg

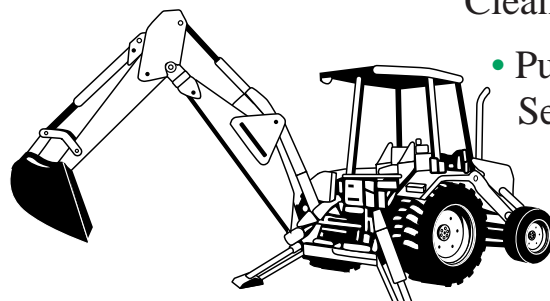
- Septic Systems Installed, Replaced and Repaired

- Septic Tanks & Cesspools Cleaned

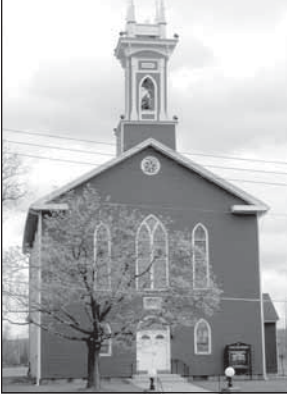


- Year Round Cleaning

- Pumps Serviced



A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches



scripture and images. That is followed by a game, a craft and a prayer center, then a re-gathering to share wisdom and prayer. We conclude before 5:30 p.m. with a pizza dinner and fellowship.

Each Sunday at Zion's features adult Bible study and Sunday school beginning at 9:15 a.m. followed by worship at 10:30. Creative, interactive elements are a part of worship to help focus on

weekly scripture readings. A children's message is given by a church member and sometimes one or more will share their faith story, how God has made a difference in their life.

All members of the community are invited to mark Lent and the celebration of Easter at Zion's. Ash Wednesday will be held at 7:30 p.m. on February 18 and includes casual communion, healing prayer and the imposition of ashes. Maundy Thursday on April 2 with communion and the next day's Good Friday Tenebrae services will both begin at 7:30 p.m. Easter service on April 5 will be held at 10:30 a.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Wednesday at 7 p.m. House blessings are available on request.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's

journey, you are welcome at Zion's Red Church, 1287 Centre Turnpike. Offering a traditional style of worship with a creative interactive flair, you can come as you are. Warm and welcoming, Zion's is a union congregation of Evangelical Lutheran and United Church of Christ denominations.

St. John's UCC

"Traditional worship for contemporary souls" is the centering statement describing St. John's United Church of Christ, 232 East Market St., to all those who are seeking a church home. A multi-generational church, faithful elders are honored, children are encouraged, and youth away at college or in the military are remembered. St. John's has been in existence for 184 years, but its thinking is now!

Pastor Barbara Kershner retired in December 2014 and a new pastor will be joining the congregation. In the meantime, an interim pastor will conduct services until the Search Committee has called a new pastor. Sunday School for ages three through 6th grade is

- Continued on page 26



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A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

– Continued from Page 25

held at 9 a.m. followed by worship at 10.

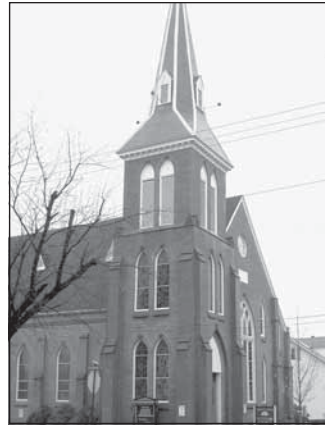
Many community activities are held year round at St. John's, including Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, yoga, a quilting group and a senior exercise program. Contact the church office for further information at 366-2255.

The Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry is housed at St. John's with all area churches, the local Lions Club, Girl and Boy Scouts, and the school district supporting this needed service in our community. Food boxes are prepared on Friday the day before distribution on the third Saturday each month. Volunteer help is always appreciated and donations of non-perishable food or financial contributions are needed. Approximately 100-125 families benefit from this volunteer mission every month.

St. Paul's Lutheran

Newly installed pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 215 North Warren St., the Rev. Lee A. Diefenderfer leads worship services at 8 and 10:30 a.m. every Sunday and a new worship opportunity every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Sunday school is also offered at 9:15 a.m. each week.

Lenten services prior to Easter will begin with Ash Wednesday on February 18 at 7 p.m. with holy communion and the imposition of ashes. An earlier service that same day is offered at 12 noon. Weekly half hour Wednesday services through Lent will be offered



at 12 noon and also 7 p.m.

All are invited to enjoy St. Paul's Concert Series. Previously announced, the February concert unfortunately has been cancelled. The next in the series will be held Sunday afternoon, March 8 featuring the "Brothers in Harmony," an award-winning Barber Shop chorus based in Lancaster. Beginning at 4 p.m., 80-plus voices promise incredible harmony.

On Sunday, April 19, the Minor Notes Children's Chorus of Schuylkill County will perform under the direction of Dr. Mark Thomas. The concert begins at 4 p.m.

And make a special attempt to enjoy St. Paul's annual concert of patriotic music and readings to celebrate the Memorial Day weekend. Featuring the Orwigsburg Festival Choir, handbells and instrumentalists, this special concert will be held Sunday, May 24 beginning at 7 p.m.

Salem UMC

Salem United Methodist Church – where Liberty and Independence meet – offers three unique wor-



SALEM United Methodist Church
Orwigsburg, PA

Welcome Home

133 S. Liberty St. Orwigsburg
www.SalemUM.com 570-366-0201

– Sunday at Salem –

8:45 a.m. – Traditional
10:00 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages
10:45 a.m. – Contemporary with
Children's Church and Nursery
6:30 p.m. – SNL Coffeehouse

– **SPECIAL EVENTS** –

March 4 and 18 – Wednesday Lenten Services 7 p.m. Supper 6 p.m.
March 15 – The God Squad Performs at 8:45 and 10:45 a.m.
April 5 – Sunrise Worship 6:30 a.m. Breakfast 7:15 a.m.



St. John's United Church of Christ

232 E. Market St., Orwigsburg • 570-366-2255


Traditional worship for contemporary souls

Lenten Services begin
Ash Wednesday, February 18 at 7 pm.
Soup/sandwiches served – Fellowship Center at 6 p.m.


Sunday school classes 8:30-9:30 a.m. for adults
9-9:45 ages 3 yrs. through 6th grade
Worship 10 a.m. every Sunday.
Communion the first Sunday of each month

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ship services each Sunday with a traditional service at 8:45 a.m., a contemporary service at 10:45, and the SNL Coffeehouse at 6:30 p.m. Sunday school for all ages is held at 10 a.m. and a children's service at 10:45 for grades one through fifth grade. A nursery is available at 10 and the 10:45 service for children ages 0-5.

Small groups meet throughout the week. Website www.SalemUMC.com contains dates and times for all activities or call the church office at 570-366-0201 for additional information.

Local United Methodist churches will host combined weekly Lenten services beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 18 at First UMC in Schuylkill Haven; February 25 will be held at Welcome UMC in Landingville; March 4 at Salem UMC in Orwigsburg; and March 11 at Covenant UMC in Schuylkill Haven. Wednesday, March 18 all are invited to enjoy our own Bell Choir at Salem UMC and the final Lenten Wednesday service will be held March 25 again at Covenant UMC. Maundy Thursday service and the Tenebrae Cantata will be held at First UMC.

Come celebrate Easter Sunday, April 5, at Salem UMC with sunrise worship starting at 6:30 a.m. All are welcome to enjoy a breakfast afterward in the



social hall which will be followed by the usual Sunday services and times.

Join us for our annual Homemade Soup and Bake Sale on Saturday, Feb. 14 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. This event supports our outreach mission projects.

Family Movie Nights return. We will have hot dogs, snacks, drinks and popcorn! Bring a snack to share and your blanket! Friday, March 6 features Big Hero Six with showtime at 5:30 p.m. Every third Sunday of the month SNL will offer a free meal and movie at 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15 features "Left Behind" and Sunday, March 15

is "Mercy Rule." Join us!

Our handbell choir, "The God Squad," performs Sunday, March 15 and Sunday, May 10 at both morning worship times and on Wednesday, March 18 at 7 p.m.

Salem welcomes the Rev. Jennifer Raudenbush as a part-time associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation. Jennifer received her Master of Divinity in 2013 and her master of arts in religion in 2014 from Evangelical Seminary in Myerstown. She has been a member of Salem for eight years and a lay leader at the church for the past six. She lives in Schuylkill Haven with her husband, Art, and son Evan.



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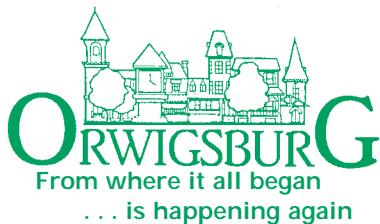
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Landscape Design – A Perspective View

Local landscape architect and owner of Season's Art Landscape Design, Tim Hill, offers the following design thoughts for homeowners.

Traditionally, shrubs were planted along a house wall to hide the raised foundations that were prevalent in home construction years ago in some regions. Shrubs also help to soften the architectural lines and blend the house to the ground level.

New home styles have sidings that almost reach that level, making the use of foundation plantings not as necessary. Why hide that attractive brick or stone you paid for? Shrubs planted next to a house can cause a buildup of mold and mildew. After removing plantings that were



right next to or along a wall, one can see their image scratched into the siding from movement in the wind.

While foundation plantings add to the aesthetics of your home landscape, "the look" can be very two dimensional – only using the "x" and "y" axes. Adding the "z" axis can create a more interesting 3-dimensional composition with more depth and perspective. That expanse of lawn (a non-native species!) can be the home for native trees and shrubs that are more in scale with the size of the house and blend in with the indigenous landscape.

Trees, shrubs and perennials come in many sizes, forms, textures and colors. An artistic blend of these can display a picturesque view of your home from the street. Those same plantings can be used to create a beautiful view from inside your home as well.



Just a few pointers with bottom line considerations ...

- Start with trees and large shrubs to create structure and form. Perennials come after those micro-climates are established. Think at least 10 years into the future. If a landscape looks "perfect" after installation, you'll probably be pruning every year or soon ripping out and replanting. Finish the cake before you start decorating it!
- If you do plant close to the house, use dwarf shrubs. The plant tags give mature size; but, be careful, that is usually not the truth. Many get up to 50% larger.
- Plant those foundation plantings further out from the house as a safe measure. Think of that person who must wash the windows or paint.
- Keep it simple ... Keep it elegant.

Easter egg hunt

The Easter Bunny will make a special, early visit to Orwigsburg on Saturday, March 28 for the annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Orwigsburg Lions Club. The event will be held at Albright's Woods on Grove Street just east of the Little League field and will begin at 12 noon.

All children from the Orwigsburg community through the age of 10 are invited to hunt for eggs, all filled with yummy candy treats. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Special "prize" eggs will be part of the selection for each age group. This is a B.Y.O.B. event ... Bring Your Own Basket! This is a free event and will be held rain or shine.

Arrive early so the children can find their appropriate age group areas among five different: ages 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, and 9-10. The egg hunt will begin promptly at noon with the blast of the Orwigsburg Fire Department's fire engine horn.

Following the hunt, there will be an opportunity to take your child's picture with the Easter Bunny, so please bring your own camera.

Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry

Thank you to all who contributed to the Thanksgiving and Christmas food supply distributed to very needy persons and families in Orwigsburg and surrounding communities.

The pantry, operating from the rear of St. John's United Church of Christ, E. Market Street, will continue to serve our neighbors in need as long as this generosity continues. The pantry is usually open the third Saturday of every month; but, this March distribution will be the fourth Saturday, March 28 to be closer to the Easter holiday.

All volunteers and pantry families must observe parking regulations in the area; and to not park on neighbors' lawns or in front of garages.